

PENSION APPROPRIATION BILL, FISCAL YEAR 1922.

DECEMBER 22, 1920.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union and ordered to be printed.

Mr. CANNON, from the Committee on Appropriations, submitted the following

REPORT.

[To accompany H. R. 15344.]

The Committee on Appropriations, in presenting the accompanying bill, making appropriations for the payment of invalid and other pensions for the fiscal year 1922, submit the following in explanation thereof:

The estimates upon which the bill is based will be found in the Annual Book of Estimates, fiscal year 1922, page 505, and aggregate \$265,190,000, of which sum \$265,000,000 is for the payment of pensions and \$190,000 is for fees and expenses of examining surgeons. A supplemental estimate of \$310,000 has been submitted in House Document No. 936 for the latter purpose, raising the original estimate to \$500,000, and making the total amount requested in the pension bill \$265,500,000.

The amount appropriated for the current fiscal year (1921) in the pension appropriation act is \$279,150,000, of which sum \$279,000,000 is for the payment of pensions and \$150,000 is for fees and expenses of examining surgeons.

The amount recommended in the accompanying bill is \$265,500,000, of which sum \$265,000,000 is for the payment of pensions and \$500,000 is for fees and expenses of examining surgeons. The amount recommended for the payment of pensions is \$14,000,000 less than the appropriation for that purpose for the current fiscal year and the amount recommended for fees and expenses of examining surgeons is \$350,000 more than the sum for the current year, making the net decrease in the total amount of this bill under the current appropriation \$13,650,000.

The estimated disbursements of the sum of \$265,000,000 for the fiscal year 1922 is composed of the following items:

Civil War	\$251, 612, 192
War with Spain	5, 844, 360
War of 1812	21, 145
War with Mexico	840, 439
Indian wars	2, 168, 915
Regular Establishment	4, 476, 215
World War	36, 734
Total	265, 000, 000

The decrease of \$14,000,000 in the sum for the payment of pensions is accounted for by the decrease in the number of pensioners. The number of pensioners upon the rolls on June 30, 1920, was 592,190, which is a net decrease during the period from July 1, 1919, to June 30, 1920, of 32,237.

The following table, reprinted from the last annual report of the Commissioner of Pensions, shows the number of pensioners on the rolls at the close of each of the last five fiscal years:

	1920	1919	1918	1917	1916
Civil War.....	533,729	568,343	591,793	618,326	654,007
War with Spain.....	30,432	28,251	27,513	28,275	28,472
War of 1812.....	71	81	99	109	115
War with Mexico.....	2,571	2,956	3,353	3,806	4,298
Indian wars.....	6,228	5,463	4,238	2,307	2,578
Regular Establishment.....	19,031	19,218	19,843	20,288	20,102
World War.....	128	115	56		
Total.....	592,190	624,427	646,895	673,111	709,572

The increase of \$350,000 in the amount for fees and expenses of examining surgeons is explained in the following letter from the Commissioner of Pensions to the Secretary of the Interior:

DECEMBER 13, 1920.

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

MY DEAR MR. SECRETARY: Herewith is submitted a supplemental estimate for fees and expenses of examining surgeons, pensions, for services rendered within the fiscal year 1922, \$310,000. This is done in compliance with the request of the subcommittee having in charge the appropriation bill for the payment of pensions, etc., for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1922.

The amount asked for in the original estimate submitted is \$190,000. The large number of claims being filed under the act of May 1, 1920, granting increases of pension to Civil War veterans, and under the act of June 5, 1920, granting pensions to survivors of the War with Spain and the Philippine Insurrection, necessitating an estimated expenditure for this fiscal year for fees and expenses of examining surgeons, pensions, of \$550,000, convince us that we will require \$500,000 for similar expenses for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1922.

The total number of claims requiring medical examinations filed the first five months of this fiscal year is 72,120. In the remaining seven months it is estimated that 25,000 claims requiring medical examinations will be filed. In the past five months 32,980 medical examinations have been ordered, and in the next seven months approximately 52,000 will be ordered.

With the figures in view, and considering the present advanced age of the more than 200,000 Civil War veterans and their consequent liability from age and its infirmities to require such aid and attendance as will entitle them to the \$72 rate provided by the act of May 1, 1920, it can readily be seen that a considerable number of them will come within the purview of the act of May 1, 1920, during the fiscal year 1922.

For fees and expenses of examining surgeons for the fiscal year 1921 \$150,000 were appropriated, and it has been found necessary to submit an estimate for a deficiency appropriation for this year of \$400,000, making the total for year \$550,000. It is believed that the total amount asked for the fiscal year 1922—\$500,000—will enable us to meet all obligations for fees and expenses of examining surgeons for the year ending June 30, 1922, and obviate the necessity of applying to the Congress for another deficiency appropriation.

Very respectfully,

F. A. ROYSE, *Acting Commissioner.*

The appropriations carried in this bill for the payment of pensions provide payments only to a very few participants or beneficiaries

of participants in the war of 1917. There were on the rolls of the Pension Bureau on June 30, 1920, 128 such persons. This number represents those who became entitled to pensions because of service between April 6, 1917, and October 6, 1917, the latter date being the date of approval of the war risk insurance act. All of the remainder of the persons serving in the war of 1917, who may be entitled to receive compensation, are to be paid by the Bureau of War Risk Insurance under the provisions of the act of October 6, 1917, as amended.

While the appropriations for the payment of compensation to soldiers of the war of 1917 or their beneficiaries are not carried in the accompanying bill, it may prove of interest to the House to know, in connection with the consideration of this bill, what the estimates for all services for all wars amount to for the fiscal year 1922 as compared with the appropriations for such purposes for the fiscal year 1921.

The following tabular statement shows the comparative amounts for the several departments of the Government for soldiers and the beneficiaries of soldiers of all wars in which the United States has been engaged, including the payment of pensions, war-risk compensation, maintenance of soldiers' homes, medical and hospital treatment of soldiers, and vocational education, but exclusive of the construction of hospital buildings:

	Appropriations, 1921.	Estimates for 1922.
Payment of pensions by Bureau of Pensions under existing law.....	\$279,150,000	\$265,500,000
Salaries and expenses, Bureau of Pensions.....	1,316,340	1,711,640
Maintenance of national soldiers homes.....	4,753,800	6,730,800
Aid to State or Territorial homes.....	1,000,000	1,000,000
Bureau of War Risk Insurance, administrative expenses.....	10,324,400	12,543,050
Compensation for death and disability.....	125,000,000	160,000,000
Medical and hospital services.....	46,000,000	50,000,000
Federal Board for Vocational Education, vocational rehabilitation of soldiers and sailors.....	90,000,000	78,000,000
Total.....	557,544,540	575,485,490

The following statistical tables are reproduced from the Annual Report of the Commissioner of Pensions and it is believed they will be of value to the membership of the House in connection with the consideration of the accompanying bill:

Amount paid to pensioners, 1790 to 1920, inclusive.

War of the Revolution.....	\$70,000,000.00
War of 1812.....	46,070,413.18
Indian wars.....	18,452,059.38
War with Mexico.....	53,582,977.63
Civil War.....	5,502,445,815.43
War with Spain and Philippine Insurrection.....	69,835,764.39
Regular Establishment.....	53,846,229.59
World War.....	74,010.03
Unclassified.....	16,508,447.41
Total.....	5,830,815,717.04

PENSION APPROPRIATION BILL, 1922.

Comparative table of disbursements of pensions on account of the different wars for the last five fiscal years (cents omitted).

	1920	1919	1918	1917	1916
Civil War.....	\$202,586,306	\$212,211,890	\$170,402,020	\$152,170,579	\$150,431,753
War with Spain.....	4,624,098	3,878,189	3,805,129	3,783,680	3,800,226
War of 1812.....	21,145	17,704	21,118	18,702	18,848
War with Mexico.....	676,682	758,156	883,854	842,055	803,281
Indian wars.....	1,746,308	1,561,537	939,916	413,997	475,072
Regular Establishment.....	3,604,038	3,701,782	3,776,049	3,666,041	3,625,910
World War.....	36,734	30,031	7,243		
Total.....	213,295,311	222,159,289	179,835,329	160,895,054	159,155,090

Disbursements for pensions and for maintenance of pension systems, 1866 to 1920.

Fiscal year.	Paid as pensions.	Cost, maintenance, and expenses.	Total.	Number of pensioners.
1866.....	\$15,450,549.88	\$407,165.00	\$15,857,714.88	126,722
1867.....	20,784,789.69	490,977.35	21,275,767.04	155,474
1868.....	23,101,509.36	553,020.34	23,654,529.70	169,643
1869.....	28,513,247.27	564,526.81	29,077,774.08	187,963
1870.....	29,351,488.78	600,997.86	29,952,486.64	198,686
1871.....	28,518,792.62	863,079.00	29,381,871.62	207,495
1872.....	29,752,746.81	951,253.00	30,703,999.81	232,229
1873.....	26,982,063.89	1,003,200.64	27,985,264.53	238,411
1874.....	30,206,778.99	966,794.13	31,173,573.12	236,241
1875.....	29,270,404.76	982,695.35	30,253,100.11	234,821
1876.....	27,936,209.53	1,015,078.81	28,951,288.34	232,137
1877.....	28,182,821.72	1,034,459.33	29,217,281.05	232,104
1878.....	26,786,009.44	1,032,500.09	27,818,509.53	223,998
1879.....	33,664,428.92	837,734.14	34,502,163.06	242,755
1880.....	56,689,229.08	935,027.28	57,624,256.36	250,802
1881.....	50,583,405.35	1,072,059.64	51,655,464.99	268,830
1882.....	54,313,172.05	1,466,236.01	55,779,408.06	285,697
1883.....	60,427,573.81	2,591,648.29	63,019,222.10	303,658
1884.....	57,912,387.47	2,835,181.00	60,747,568.47	322,756
1885.....	65,171,937.12	3,392,576.34	68,564,513.46	345,125
1886.....	64,091,142.90	3,245,016.61	67,336,159.51	365,783
1887.....	73,752,907.08	3,753,400.91	77,506,397.99	406,007
1888.....	78,950,501.67	3,515,057.27	82,465,558.94	452,557
1889.....	88,842,720.58	3,466,968.40	92,309,688.98	489,725
1890.....	106,093,850.39	3,526,382.13	109,620,232.52	537,944
1891.....	117,312,690.50	4,700,636.44	122,013,326.94	676,160
1892.....	139,394,147.11	4,808,665.80	144,202,812.91	876,068
1893.....	156,906,637.94	4,867,734.42	161,774,372.36	966,019
1894.....	139,986,726.17	3,963,976.31	143,950,702.48	969,544
1895.....	139,812,204.30	4,338,020.21	144,150,314.51	970,524
1896.....	138,220,704.46	3,991,375.61	142,212,080.07	970,678
1897.....	139,949,717.35	3,987,783.07	143,937,500.42	976,014
1898.....	144,651,879.80	4,114,091.46	148,765,971.26	993,714
1899.....	138,355,052.95	4,147,517.73	142,502,570.68	991,519
1900.....	138,462,130.65	3,841,706.74	142,303,837.39	993,592
1901.....	138,531,483.84	3,868,795.44	142,400,279.28	997,735
1902.....	137,504,267.99	3,831,378.96	141,335,646.95	999,446
1903.....	137,759,653.71	3,993,216.79	141,752,870.50	996,545
1904.....	141,093,571.49	3,849,366.25	144,942,937.74	994,762
1905.....	141,142,861.33	3,721,832.82	144,864,694.15	998,441
1906.....	139,000,288.25	3,523,269.51	142,523,557.76	985,971
1907.....	138,155,412.46	3,309,110.44	141,464,522.90	967,371
1908.....	153,093,086.27	2,800,963.36	155,894,049.63	951,687
1909.....	161,973,703.77	2,852,583.73	164,826,287.50	946,194
1910.....	159,974,056.08	2,657,673.86	162,631,729.94	921,083
1911.....	157,325,160.35	2,517,127.06	159,842,287.41	892,098
1912.....	152,986,433.72	2,448,857.31	155,435,291.03	860,294
1913.....	174,171,660.80	2,543,246.59	176,714,907.39	820,200
1914.....	172,417,546.26	2,066,507.15	174,484,053.41	785,239
1915.....	165,518,266.14	1,779,860.30	167,298,126.44	748,147
1916.....	159,155,089.92	1,656,722.33	160,811,812.25	709,572
1917.....	160,895,053.94	1,562,854.96	162,457,908.90	673,111
1918.....	179,835,328.75	1,527,615.61	181,362,944.36	646,895
1919.....	222,159,292.70	1,433,191.67	223,592,484.37	624,427
1920.....	213,295,314.65	1,395,014.09	214,690,328.74	592,190
Total.....	5,734,370,272.81	137,293,731.75	5,871,664,004.56	.....

Pensioners on the roll June 30, 1920, and June 30, 1919.

Classes.	1920	1919	Gain.	Loss.
Regular Establishment:				
Invalids.....	14,477	14,655	.....	178
Widows.....	2,899	2,922	.....	23
Minor children.....	259	251	8	.....
Mothers.....	1,211	1,217	.....	6
Fathers.....	169	161	8	.....
Brothers, sisters, sons, and daughters.....	9	8	1	.....
Helpless children.....	7	4	3	.....
Civil War:				
Act Feb. 6, 1907—				
Survivors.....	410	579	.....	169
Act May 11, 1912—				
Survivors.....	234,756	260,127	.....	25,371
General law—				
Invalids.....	8,152	10,418	.....	2,266
Widows.....	39,346	42,773	.....	3,427
Minor children.....	62	86	.....	24
Mothers.....	129	189	.....	60
Fathers.....	11	17	.....	6
Brothers, sisters, sons, and daughters.....	635	633	.....	48
Helpless children.....	388	399	.....	11
Act June 27, 1890—				
Invalids.....	202	267	.....	65
Minor children.....	1,519	1,698	.....	179
Helpless children.....	512	507	5	.....
Act Apr. 19, 1908—				
Widows without children.....	245,170	247,940	.....	2,770
Widows with children.....	2,328	2,531	.....	203
Act Aug. 5, 1892—				
Nurses.....	109	129	.....	20
War with Spain:				
Invalids.....	23,144	23,382	.....	238
Widows.....	1,233	1,262	.....	29
Minor children.....	123	131	.....	8
Mothers.....	1,965	2,100	.....	135
Fathers.....	283	303	.....	20
Brothers, sisters, sons, and daughters.....	1	2	.....	1
Helpless children.....	5	6	.....	1
Act July 16, 1918—				
Widows.....	3,371	992	2,379	.....
Minors.....	306	72	234	.....
Helpless children.....	1	1	.....	.....
War of 1812:				
Widows.....	71	81	.....	10
War with Mexico:				
Survivors.....	148	215	.....	67
Widows.....	2,421	2,739	.....	318
Brothers, sisters, sons, and daughters.....	2	2	.....	.....
Indian wars:				
Survivors.....	3,745	3,436	309	.....
Widows.....	2,483	2,027	456	.....
World War:				
Invalids.....	76	61	15	.....
Widows.....	41	44	.....	3
Minor children.....	4	3	1	.....
Mothers.....	6	6
Fathers.....	1	1
Total.....	592,190	624,427	3,419	35,656
Net loss to the roll.....				32,237

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